

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00

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USIA/INA - CSNOW (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: INDIRA GANDHI'S ATTACKS ON US - PRESS GUIDANCE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY
PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN JANUARY 2. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AND GUIDANCE WAS
NOT USED.

Q. WHAT COMMENT DO YOU HAVE ON THE PRESS REPORTS OF INDIRA
GANDHI'S SHARP CRITICISM OF THE U.S. AND INFERENCE FOREIGN
POWERS (I.E. THE U.S.) ARE MEDDLING IN INDIAN AFFAIRS?

A. OUR CONCERN AND DISMAY OVER THE TENOR OF MRS. GANDHI'S
REMARKS HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN
NEW DELHI AND TO THE INDIAN EMBASSY HERE. (FYI: ACTING
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH
THE INDIAN CHARGE ON DECEMBER 30 EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN AND
AMBASSADOR SAXBE HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER IN NEW DELHI.)

Q. WELL, THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION THEN TO HER REPORTED
MORE RECENT CRITICISM OF THE U.S.?

A. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE THAT WE ARE MUCH
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DISTURBED BY SOME OF HER RECENT STATEMENTS.

Q. HOW HAS THE GOI BEEN MADE AWARE OF THIS CONCERN?

A. THE INDIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS ALREADY BEEN INFORMED AS I TOLD YOU AND OUR EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE GOI.

Q. AT WHAT LEVEL IS THE EMBASSY IN CONTACT WITH THE GOI IN DELHI?

A. AMBASSADOR SAXBE HAS DISCUSSED THE MATTER AT AN APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL. INGERSOLL

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